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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

While efforts continue to focus on attaining the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations system has also embarked on consultations aimed at defining the contours of the post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, the regional commissions have conducted widespread, multi-stakeholder consultations to identify critical elements to include in that agenda. Despite being linked to well-identified indicators of achievement, the monitoring framework of the Goals, did not take into account the fact that countries and regions are in different stages of development. As a result, global targets did not reflect relative performance or national and regional disparities. The post-2015 development framework should therefore be flexible enough for adaptation at the subnational, national and regional levels.

The regional consultations identified a number of common challenges with varied degrees of priority among the regions, including the need to address the major issues of inequality, human rights and good governance; sustainable consumption and production patterns; resilience to natural and man-made disasters; and the need for economic transformation and inclusive growth. More importantly, they also highlighted the criticality of the means of implementation the strategies and the enablers of development for a post-2015 agenda.

In addition to taking stock of the Millennium Development Goals and initiating consideration of the post-2015 development agenda, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly will be considering throughout 2013 the important issue of international migration and development. Multilateral dialogue and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels could be particularly beneficial to developing countries in that regard, given the existing and growing trends of South-South and intraregional migration.

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The present report is submitted to the Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV) and is structured in two main sections. The first provides an updated analysis of the lessons learned in implementing the Millennium Development Goals from the regional perspective; presents the critical messages emanating from the regional consultations held on the post-2015 development agenda as inputs to the global discussions; and highlights the important role of regional cooperation in maximizing the benefits and addressing the challenges of international migration and development. The second covers developments in selected areas of regional and interregional cooperation, including additional policy matters addressed during the ministerial sessions of the regional commissions; efforts to promote coherence at the regional level, including through the respective regional coordination mechanisms convened by the regional commissions, as mandated by the Council; cooperation with non-United Nations regional organizations to promote development; and ongoing interregional cooperation among the regional commissions through the production of joint analytical products, the hosting of joint events and the implementation of joint projects, as part of their efforts in promoting South-South cooperation.

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I. Regional perspectives on the global agenda

A. The Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda: lessons learned and messages from the regions

Background

1. Many countries, across all regions, have made tremendous progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals. At the global level, most of the Goals will be attained, and in some cases progress will go beyond the targets set in the 2000s. For example, the goal of halving the proportion of people living in poverty will be exceeded since the rate is expected to fall to 15 per cent by 2015, compared with the Millennium Development Goals target of 23 per cent. However, progress is uneven across and within countries and regions. The special event of the General Assembly to be held in September 2013 to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Goals will provide an opportunity to identify major gaps that exist and highlight the urgency of accelerating progress in countries that are not on track.

2. While efforts continue to focus on attaining the Goals, the United Nations system has also embarked on consultations aimed at defining the contours of the post-2015 development agenda. The Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda delivered its report at the end of May, and the Secretary-General will submit a follow-up report to the General Assembly prior to its special event in September. The Economic and Social will also take up discussions on the post-2015 development agenda during its high-level segment in July 2013. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, established by the Assembly in its decision 67/555, in accordance with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July 2012 (Rio+20 Conference),has also begun its work. In addition, a number of other consultations are being supported by the United Nations development system, Member States and academic institutions.

3. The regional commissions regularly report on progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals in their regions. The widespread, multi-stakeholder consultations they have conducted have served to identify critical elements to be included in the post-2015 development agenda and a number of common challenges affecting many parts of the developing world. However, the order of the priorities changes from region to region based on particular circumstances. The monitoring framework of the Goals, despite being linked to well-identified indicators of achievement, did not take into account the fact that countries and regions are in different stages of development. As a result, global targets did not reflect relative performance or national and regional disparities. The post-2015 development framework should therefore be flexible enough for adaptation at the national and regional levels.

4. The present report provides an updated analysis of the lessons learned in implementing the Goals from the regional perspective. It also presents the critical messages emanating from the regional consultations held on the post-2015 development agenda as inputs to the global discussions, which is available in a joint report by the regional commissions entitled "A regional perspective on the post-2015

United Nations development agenda".[1] The publication and outcomes of the regional consultations are available from the regional commission website: www.regionalcommission.org.

Prevailing situation in the different regions and results of the regional consultations

Economic Commission for Africa

5. Africa's recent economic performance has sparked renewed optimism about the continent's development prospects. The discourse has shifted from perceiving the challenges facing Africa as being overwhelming to seeing Africa as an emerging pole of growth. Over the past decade, economic growth has been consistently high and resilient to the global and financial economic crisis, only dipping for a couple of years following the onset of the crisis in 2007.

6. Between 2000 and 2009, 11 African countries grew at an annual rate of 7 per cent or more, which is considered sufficient to double the economy in 10 years. Despite the sovereign debt crisis in Europe and the subdued growth in North America and China, Africa's medium-term growth prospects remain strong, at 4.8 per cent in 2013 and 5.1 per cent in 2014. The business climate has also improved, and the middle class has expanded. In 2010, the middle class was estimated at 355 million people, or 34 per cent of the total population.

7. Although some social indicators have improved, such as progress in raising the primary school enrolment rate, gender parity in education, reduction in the prevalence and incidence rates of HIV/AIDS and improvements in governance indicators, Africa is unlikely overall to meet most of the Millennium Development Goals: Africa still has the highest maternal and child death rates; forest cover is declining rapidly; and access to improved water sources and sanitation is limited. Such trends raise legitimate questions about the quality and sustainability of Africa's growth trajectory.

8. Consultations led by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with member States, civil society and a wide range of stakeholders have generated consensus around the following three broad development outcomes as priorities for the post-2105 development agenda: structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; innovation and technology transfer; and human development. Furthermore, the consultations have also highlighted the importance of development enablers in creating the appropriate environment for the realization of the three priority outcomes. The enablers include, but are not limited to, peace and security; domestic resource mobilization; infrastructure (including transport, telecommunications, water and energy); good governance; and an enabling global governance architecture, in particular with respect to international trade and finance.

Europe and Central Asia

9. The region covered by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) as a whole is characterized by high levels of economic and human development. However, the aggregate figures conceal large disparities between and within countries. Therefore, making economic growth more inclusive and sustainable, and adopting social protection systems and policies that reduce the social and economic divide is an imperative for all countries of the region.

[1] Available from http://www.regionalcommissions.org/?p=481.

10. In respect of the Millennium Development Goals, two groups of countries can be identified on the basis of the indicators. The first group consists of middle- and upper-middle-income countries that have eliminated extreme poverty to a large extent and are likely to attain most of the Goals. The group is dominated by the new European Union member States from Central Europe and European Union candidate countries from South-Eastern Europe. The second group mainly includes the lower-middle- and low-income countries from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus region and Central Asia, as well as the relatively less advanced transition economies of South-Eastern Europe. These countries experienced severe difficulties in the 1990s in their transitions to market economies and have therefore been less successful in achieving the Goals, although they made significant progress in the seven years before the global financial crisis of 2008.

11. The global economic and financial crisis of 2008-2009 has continued to have a strong negative effect in most countries of emerging Europe and Central Asia. Higher unemployment and lower incomes have forced households to economize even on necessities. Marginalized groups have been hit harder by unemployment, income losses and reduced accessibility to health services than has the majority of the population. Such groups include disadvantaged ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and migrants. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals could be accelerated at a minimal cost if the social and economic policies of Governments would focus on improving the living standards of those disadvantaged groups. Any future development agenda should also maintain this focus.

12. Consultations are ongoing in Europe on the post-2015 development agenda, and environmental considerations are emerging as a fundamental challenge. ECE organized a conference on the theme "Environment for Europe" in Kazakhstan in September 2011, which was the first pan-European initiative to start discussions on the necessary steps to facilitate the region's transition to a green economy. Countries will need to apply a mix of economic, legal and regulatory, voluntary and information-based instruments to foster the transition. Appropriate economic instruments will be needed to alter relative prices in order to change production and consumption patterns. There is no "one-size-fits-all" instrument mix that can facilitate the transition to a green economy. The actions taken by each country will be based on its initial socioeconomic and environmental conditions.

Latin America and the Caribbean

13. The past 10 years have seen positive trends in economic growth, job creation, and the reduction of extreme poverty and an improvement in the region's high-income distribution inequality. The economies of the region have also become more resilient to global shocks, as can be seen following the global economic and financial crisis, where the region's economies slowed in 2008 but returned to growth by 2009. The region has therefore made considerable progress towards reaching the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, including on reducing extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and infant mortality, and on improving access to safe drinking water. Over 90 per cent of the population has access to primary education, and gender parity has been achieved in education. However, gender gaps continue to exist in respect of income and access to property and decision-making.

14. In the Caribbean subregion, access to education is even broader, with near universal secondary education and much greater access to tertiary education.

Countries of the region have relatively stable democracies, with high levels of political participation and low and declining levels of political violence.

15. The region is very heterogeneous, comprising countries that are in the upper-middle income bracket and are members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; small island developing States that have particular vulnerabilities; and heavily indebted poor countries. Such heterogeneity is also seen within countries since the region has the worst income distribution in the world. Addressing poverty eradication as well as the issue of income inequality will therefore remain a focus of the post 2015 period.

16. The region is host to some of the world's richest natural resources, in respect of rivers, forests and biodiversity, and its future development agenda will need to contain a strong environmental component. The region is extremely vulnerable to climate change, ranging from the El Niño phenomenon to the floods and hurricanes that particularly batter the Caribbean every season. New development pathways must be found as a matter of urgency to ensure environmental sustainability, establish an environmentally friendly economy and reverse ecological destruction. The global patterns of production and consumption must change to a more sustainable path. Management of the natural resource base of economic and social development is the overarching and essential requirement for sustainable development.

17. The means by which the post-2015 development agenda is implemented is of critical importance to the region. In this regard, development assistance, South-South and triangular cooperation, public spending and new ways of involving the private sector are key issues in the new development agenda. The reform of the international financial architecture is an important part of this, including making room for innovative sources of financing. From the perspective of the region, financing for sustainable development is a key tool in making the agenda a reality.

Asia and the Pacific

18. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in conjunction with the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a series of subregional workshops and consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, including for the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, with Government representatives, experts and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. The Millennium Development Goals provided a powerful tool for consolidating national, regional and global efforts around clear, concise and measurable development objectives. However, progress towards the Goals varies among the countries of the region and across different goals and indicators. Important gaps remain in policies, strategies and, critically, the availability of resources, all of which need to be explicitly addressed in order to achieve the Goals.

19. The region as a whole has already reached the targets of reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than $1.25 per day and halving the proportion of people without safe drinking water. Progress has also been achieved in ensuring gender parity at the three educational levels; reversing the spread of HIV and tuberculosis; increasing the areas covered by forests and those with protected status; and reducing the consumption of ozone-depleting substances. Furthermore, the region is on track to ensure that all children attend primary school.

20. The regional consultations indicated that the post-2015 development agenda should build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, along with an explicit focus on addressing inequalities and disparities at all levels, including intergenerational inequality; fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth; building productive capacity; eradicating poverty; reducing hunger and malnutrition; reducing child and maternal mortality; ensuring access to sanitation and safe water and to modern sources of energy; combating non-communicable diseases; fostering gender equality and the empowerment of women; promoting youth employment and decent and productive employment for all; and reducing all forms of vulnerabilities.

21. The consultations also indicated that special attention should be paid to the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. In addition, they agreed that the post-2015 development agenda must address the different needs and aspirations of the States Members of the United Nations, as well as recognize the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation and the increased role of different stakeholders, such as civil society, the private sector, the media and centres of excellence.

22. There are four issues that are of high priority for conflict-affected States: inclusive economic growth that is pro-poor and pro-jobs; development that is supported by State effectiveness and State-building; the security of citizens and the concern that violence is created not only by war but also by the criminalization of many of these societies; and the issue of peace and justice based on human rights. A much more robust system of economic and social protection that takes into account the challenges and opportunities of changing demographics, such as the "youth bulge", is needed.

Arab States

23. In the Arab region, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regularly analyses progress towards the targets of the Millennium Development Goals and provides policy advice where needed. It is remarkable to observe that a number of the countries affected by transitions in the region, namely, Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, were among the top performers in achieving the Goals in the region. Evaluations of national progress towards the Goals did not take into account large inequalities within each country — whether between rich and poor, rural and urban or men and women. Thus there is a need to look beyond the national averages of the Millennium Development Goals indicators in order to better understand the situation on the ground.

24. The high-income countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council will attain most of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, while the Arab least developed countries are largely not on track. The region as a whole is on track to meeting primary education targets, and the elimination of gender disparity in education has been attained at both the primary and secondary levels. However, women's empowerment remains a distant goal, and the levels of poverty, child malnutrition and population suffering from undernourishment remain high.

25. Regarding the post-2015 development agenda, it is important to address the need for political and governance reforms in the region. Ongoing transition in the region represents a call for broad-based political participation and access to decision-making processes by a large number of the populations, particularly youth and women. Institutional reforms are needed to create effective and accountable

systems that are responsive to popular demands and capable of providing efficient services. It is also necessary to redefine poverty measurements that address non-monetary factors in defining the multidimensional nature of poverty in order to better reflect national contexts.

26. Inequality within and between countries remains a major challenge. Therefore, the post-2015 development agenda must include measures for providing social protection that can raise the living conditions of the most vulnerable. Social protection reflects national concerns for fairness, dignity and the capabilities of citizens and safeguards the capabilities of the chronically deprived and those who may only need such support temporarily. At the same time, social protection can be a capability enabler for the disadvantaged since their capability can expand once their specific basic needs have been met.

27. Promoting regional cooperation and integration will help to overcome disparities in the levels of national development. Such cooperation could extend to the management of scarce natural resources, in particular water resources, to promote water and food security.

B. International migration and development: a critical role for regional cooperation

Background

28. The issue of international and regional migration has continued to grow in scope, complexity and impact since the General Assembly held its first high-level dialogue on international migration and development in 2006. Furthermore, since 2010, the issue of international migration has been at the core of many international debates concerning the global economic crisis and such related topics as the situation of migrants and remittance flows, the return of migrants, the anti-immigration climate and the increasing vulnerability of the human rights of migrants.

29. At the second high-level dialogue on international migration and development, to be held in New York in October 2013, the international community will have the opportunity to keeping migrants at the centre of the debate, while assessing formal progress and seeking new approaches to addressing international migration through cooperation and coordination at the local, national, regional and global levels, with the involvement of leading actors in migration, including civil society and mechanisms of regional integration.

30. Mitigating the challenges of international migration while maximizing its benefits to development, including as a driver for regional integration, has been an important goal for many countries across all regions. However, collaboration on and forging greater consensus on the means and policies to attain such a goal have yet to be fully achieved, including at the subregional and regional levels. Multilateral dialogue and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels could be particularly beneficial to developing countries, given the existing and growing trends of South-South and intraregional migration. While South-North migration remains the main driver of global migration, South-South migration has become almost as relevant: in 2010, about 73 million international migrants, who had been born in the South, were residing in the South; and about 74 million migrants originating in the South were living in the North. Different factors are responsible for this change, including the

new role of emerging economies, developments in transportation and infrastructure, and differentials in income, wages, job opportunities and labour markets in the countries of the same region.

International migration and regional specificity

31. International migration clearly exhibits regional specificities. In Africa, the great majority of international migration takes place within the continent itself, especially from neighbouring countries, largely determined by geographical location and membership in the regional economic communities. International migration in Latin America and the Caribbean is mainly extraregional, essentially to the United States of America and to Spain; only 14 per cent of all international migrants born in the region reside there. In the Asia-Pacific region, the predominant pattern is one of low-skilled temporary labour migration, including long-distance migration to the Gulf region and to the emerging economies of East and South-East Asia. Domestic work is the most important occupation for women migrants from Asia in the low-wage sector. Many economies of the Asia-Pacific region rely heavily on remittances from labour migration that amount to almost half the estimated remittances in the world. In the ESCWA region, migration is extremely intense. Over 54 per cent of the 17 million emigrants from ESCWA countries in 2010 were living in other ESCWA countries. Most of such temporary labour migration, which is dominated by single males, is directed towards the resource-rich countries covered by the Gulf Cooperation Council and Libya.[2] In 2010, of the 214 million international migrants worldwide, 50 million were living in North America and 70 million in Europe.

32. In addition to economic migration, new trends and migration dynamics have emerged related to conflict, climate change, environmental degradation and struggles over the use of such natural resources as water and food. For instance, the patterns of migration in Eastern and Central Africa are shaped by violent conflict, political instability and the high prevalence of poverty. In those regions, it is estimated there are about 10 million internally displaced persons, or 38 per cent of the world's total of such persons. At the end of 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan hosted over 1.2 million refugees combined, the majority of whom were from Iraq.[3] However, with the worsening situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the number of refugees in neighbouring countries, particularly Jordan and Lebanon, has recently reached 1 million.[4] The Asia-Pacific region has seen an increase in the interest of member States to engage in discussions on migration issues related to environmental change and natural disasters since it is the region most prone to such disasters.

Regional cooperation on international migration and the role of the regional commissions

33. In addition to being a driver of regional integration, with the most salient example being that of the European Union, regional cooperation on international migration and development has long preceded global cooperation, and in many instances has produced effective commitments and strategies, such as the

[2] Based on World Bank, *Migration and Remittances Factbook* 2011 (Washington, D.C., 2011), see table 1, Bilateral estimates of migrant stocks in 2010.

[3] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "Global trends 2011: a year in crisis", pps. 12-14.

[4] Data available from http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2007) and the agreement on the establishment of the council of the leaders of migration agencies of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (2007). The African Union Migration Policy Framework for Africa (2006) also provides the guidelines and principles to assist Governments and regional economic commissions in the formulation of their own national and regional migration policies. In addition, inter-State forums for the development of a comprehensive framework to manage migration at the regional level, such as the Regional Consultative Process on the Management of Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origins in Asia (the Colombo Process) and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, demonstrate that the global principles of migration governance can be translated into concrete measures that are more readily applicable at the regional and subregional levels. The regional commissions have been supporting such processes and promoting regional cooperation on international migration, namely, by focusing their work around the four areas set out below.

Generating data and analytical products

34. The first area concerns developing evidence-based information and knowledge systems to improve the availability and quality of data and information. ECE developed "Migratory", an online inventory of sources on migration in Europe, Central Asia and North America and produced a manual entitled "Statistics on international migration: a practical guide", which offers theoretical and practical information and suggestions for various categories of producers and users. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) developed an inventory on migration sources in the Latin American and Caribbean region. ESCAP is working with the Scalabrini Migration Center in the Philippines to develop a migration information system in Asia for collecting, updating, reporting on and sharing international migration data in the region through a common web-based portal.

35. The regional commissions have also been undertaking analytical research. For instance, the ECA study on "International migration: trends and institutional frameworks from the African perspective" addressed intraregional movements, return migration, irregular migration, forced population movements and asylum-seeking, as well as temporary migration, skilled migration, remittance flows and the presence of diasporas in countries of destination. ECLAC produced a report entitled "International migration in Latin America and the Caribbean: new trends and approaches", which addressed emerging international migration issues and their implications in terms of policies and legal frameworks. The ESCWA report entitled "International migration and Development in the ESCWA region: challenges and opportunities", focused on the scale and impact of labour migration, remittances, brain drain and diaspora engagement in the region and looked at the legal framework under which migration took place. The ESCAP situation report on international migration in South and South-West Asia focused on the political, social and cultural dynamics that shape migration patterns in the subregion. Based on the recommendations of the report, a subregional policy strategy on international migration was formulated and transmitted to the member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Capacity-building

36. The second area concerns building and increasing human and institutional capacities to design and implement policies on migration. In recent years, the regional commissions led a number of training and capacity-building workshops for Government officials, focused on themes related to the specific situations of the regions. For example, the workshops undertaken by ECE from 2010 to 2012 focused on building capacities in migration statistics in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The workshops undertaken by ESCWA focused on promoting regional dialogue. ECLAC focused on identifying new trends, issues and approaches, and ESCAP efforts focused on integrating migration in development strategies and planning. The capacity-building efforts provided, inter alia, an opportunity to introduce countries to key concepts concerning migration and development and to apply them to their own situations.

Promoting interregional cooperation

37. The third area in which regional commissions have increased their efforts is in the exchange of good practices, the sharing of information and facilitating dialogue beyond regional boundaries. Interregional concerns and best practices have been identified, from both South-South and South-North perspectives. For instance, a development account project to strengthen national capacities in dealing with international migration, led by ECLAC and implemented jointly by all the regional commissions, provided new analysis and built capacities at the interregional level, in particular through joint studies and workshops. Within the framework of the project, ESCAP and ESCWA joined efforts in 2011 to promote dialogue between their respective countries on international migration and development, while ECLAC, ECE and ECA brought together representatives from their regions to examine development, and the institutional and policy aspects of migration between Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. The compilation of national and regional experiences and good practices has been published in an interregional report on labour migration and social protection and in a report on the development, institutional and policy aspects of international migration between Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean". ECLAC has also supported the summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean States (CELAC) in their dialogue with the European Union on international migration between the two regions.

Support to global processes

38. The fourth area relates to supporting global processes. The regional commissions have also provided a regional perspective on international migration in such multilateral contexts as the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, the Global Forum for Migration and Development, and the Global Migration Group, the inter-agency mechanism on migration that comprises 15 United Nations entities and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

39. In support of the global discussion on migration and development, the regional commissions have contributed to the Global Forum for Migration and Development since its inception in 2007, through the collective support provided by the Global Migration Group and on an individual basis. For instance, in 2010 ESCAP, in collaboration with the Regional Coordination Mechanism thematic working group

on international migration, including human trafficking, organized the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the Forum held in Manila.

40. For the first half of 2013, ESCAP, on behalf of the regional commissions, will be serving as the chair of the Global Migration Group. During its role as chair, it has focused its efforts on strengthening the institutional foundations of the Group and enhancing the role of the Group in promoting policy coherence and coordination among its member organizations in the lead-up to the 2013 high-level dialogue on international migration and development and for the subsequent implementation of its outcomes.

41. As part of the preparatory process to the 2013 high-level dialogue on international migration and development, the regional commissions have organized discussions to examine the regional aspects of international migration and development, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/219. The regional discussions that will be held between May and July 2013 will present an opportunity for countries to engage in fruitful discussions regarding practical recommendations and solutions to addressing the key migration issues and priorities in their respective regions and for building an effective and collaborative framework on international migration and development governance for their regions, including on how to integrate migration into the post-2015 development framework.

The way forward

42. At the second high-level dialogue on international migration and development to be held in October 2013, Member States will have before them the report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive overview of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development. The report refers to elements that Member States may wish to take into account regarding the role of regional cooperation in addressing the challenges of international migration and development, including:

(a) Promoting investment in data collection, the documentation of best practices and the establishment of networks to share knowledge at the relevant regional levels;

(b) Developing regional migration frameworks that encourage coherent responses and cooperation between countries of origin and destination. Countries should develop appropriate national migration policies that reflect national concerns as well as regional interests and commitments;

(c) Enhancing interregional, regional and subregional coordination and cooperation on migration issues through, inter alia, the development of regional and subregional networks of stakeholders on migration issues;

(d) Assisting Governments and regional organizations to develop the capacities required to implement migration policies, strategies and frameworks at all levels;

(e) Encouraging the regional commissions to take the lead in tailoring the global migration and development agenda to fit the specificities of different regional contexts, and ensuring coherent and appropriate regional responses from the United Nations system to migration and development issues, including through hosting regional dialogues on migration and development-related issues, where relevant.

II. Developments in selected areas of regional and interregional cooperation

A. Major policy issues addressed by the regional commissions at their ministerial sessions and other high-level meetings

43. The regional commissions considered the issues highlighted in the first part of the present report at their high-level ministerial sessions and at other meetings held since the convening of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council. During the period under consideration, four of the regional commissions, namely, ECLAC, ECA, ECE and ESCAP, held their annual or biennial ministerial sessions.

44. The thirty-fourth session of ECLAC was held in San Salvador from 27 to 31 August 2012. The theme of the discussions focused on structural change for equality. Member States welcomed proposals by ECLAC for an integrated approach to development that would lead to transformation of the region's economies and foster a more inclusive growth. The outcome and resolutions of adopted by ECLAC at its session were considered by the Council in its resumed 2012 session. The outcomes and resolutions adopted by ECA, ECE and ESCAP at their respective sessions will be presented for the Council's consideration and action at its 2013 session through addenda to the present report.

45. The forty-sixth session of ECA was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 21 to 26 March 2013, as part of the sixth joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance. The theme of the meeting was "Industrialization for an emerging Africa". The discussion addressed a number of related topics, including policies to accelerate industrialization and structural transformation in Africa as well as the planning and financing of industrial development. Member States discussed the need for a paradigm shift for Africa, from relying on the export of primary commodities to commodity-based industrialization, which would deliver employment, increase incomes and facilitate diversification. The ministerial policy statement adopted by the Conference stressed the need for effective policies and programmes by African countries to achieve that objective, capitalizing on the continent's resource endowments and high commodity prices, and addressing infrastructure constraints and bottlenecks. The session also considered and endorsed the new strategic orientation of ECA, as presented by the new Executive Secretary in response to the needs and priorities of African countries.

46. ECA organized the 8th African Development Forum in Addis Ababa in October 2012 on the theme "Governing and harnessing natural resources for Africa's development". The forum, jointly organized with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other key partners, attracted over 800 representatives from the respective Governments, the private sector, academia, development partners and non-governmental organizations. The discussion brought into sharp focus the importance of natural resources governance in the social and economic transformation processes in Africa to foster growth and poverty reduction. The consensus statement adopted by the forum outlined actions and commitments that will see Africa gain more from its land, mineral, forestry and fishery resources.

47. ECE held its sixty-fifth session in Geneva, from 9 to 11 April 2013. The high-level debates were centred on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and the post-2015 development agenda, and on economic developments and challenges in the ECE region, particularly the role of innovation in creating a dynamic and competitive economy. Member States adopted the outcome document of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE, which defines the strategic priorities for the Commission's work for the coming years. Several proposals concerned strengthening the role of ECE, in particular regarding issues such as the creation of mechanisms to facilitate cross-border policy learning and the exchange of good practices on eco-innovation.

48. The sixty-ninth session of ESCAP was held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. The theme of the session was "Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises". A ministerial round table on the topic discussed how to develop effective strategies and policies to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises in order to protect hard-earned development gains. The session called for a shift in the development paradigm in the region that would, in particular, require rethinking the way fiscal policy is designed and implemented, focusing more specifically on the creation of jobs and investing in the environment.

49. During the ministerial segment, the Secretary General's initiative Zero Hunger Challenge was launched at an event moderated by the Deputy Secretary-General who also chaired a ministerial panel on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. The panel highlighted country-specific experiences in formulating and implementing development strategies based on investing in human and natural capital as the drivers of inclusive and sustainable development that could provide valuable perspectives on the development agenda beyond 2015.

B. Coherence at the regional level

Developments relating to the Regional Coordination Mechanism

50. The regional commissions continued to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with relevant Council and General Assembly mandates through the respective Regional Coordination Mechanism of their regions in order to promote policy coherence and coordination among United Nations system organizations and with subregional and regional partners. The Deputy Secretary-General chaired the main Regional Coordination Mechanism meetings during the reporting period. The annual meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for the ECE region, held on 24 October 2012 in Geneva, brought together the regional directors of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in order to address issues of high priority on the United Nations development agenda that call for policy coherence at the regional level and require interagency cooperation. The meeting addressed ongoing global processes with regard to the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. In addition, the meeting focused on follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference in the area of the green economy; possible areas of cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); and the need to reconsider traditional development assistance frameworks, tools and planning processes for middle-income countries in the region and to take the issue into account when developing

the post-2015 agenda. It was agreed at the meeting that a regional inter-agency report on post-2015 challenges and opportunities in the region would be presented to the General Assembly at its September 2013 high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. ECE and UNDP, in close cooperation with the other agencies participating in the Regional Coordination Mechanism meetings, are coordinating the work involved in preparing that report.

51. ECA convened, in Addis Ababa on 14 and 15 November 2012, the thirteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme. The session was opened by the Deputy Secretary-General and deliberated upon principles and issues for consideration by African policymakers in developing the African position on the global post-2015 development agenda. The session took stock of some of the concrete achievements made during the past year under its framework, including the support provided by agencies of the United Nations system to 24 countries in developing national agriculture and food security investment plans based on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; assistance in training African negotiators to negotiate the African position in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, "The Future We Want", and in preparing the Africa consensus statement, which was featured prominently in the outcome document, in the area of infrastructure; assistance in the preparation of the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity; and development of a gender-sensitive bioenergy framework and policy guidelines for Africa, which should promote local decent employment.

52. Considering that the session faced many challenges, in particular insufficient resources to implement and monitor cluster work programmes, the Mechanism recommended the development of a joint resource mobilization strategy and the creation of a trust fund to facilitate the implementation of activities and assist in building baseline data to measure progress on the achievements of the clusters. ECA has also continued to strengthen its subregional offices in order to enable them to promote Africa's regional integration agenda and to develop a framework for coordinating United Nations support in the delivery of the development programmes of the regional economic commissions. Subregional coordination mechanisms have been established in all ECA subregional offices, along with multiyear programmes of work for the integrated support of the United Nations system to the regional economic commissions.

53. The work of the Regional Coordination Mechanism convened by ESCAP in 2012, including through its annual session in December and 10 ad hoc meetings, focused on the articulation of Asia-Pacific perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda and on implementation of the decisions taken at the Rio+20 Conference. That work has resulted, inter alia, in: (a) agreement among ESCAP Mechanism members to develop a strategic framework for development cooperation in the region in conjunction with the United Nations Development Group for Asia and the Pacific; (b) the articulation of views of a large number of policymakers and stakeholders from across the region as input for the Asia-Pacific Millennium Development Goals 2012/13 report, jointly prepared by ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank and UNDP; and (c) enhancing the role of the Mechanism in knowledge-sharing, including by having the Mechanism website serve as a repository for the work of all United Nations entities in the region on Rio+20 and post-2015 development agenda-related processes.

54. In parallel, the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism continued to promote regional cooperation through its seven thematic working groups. The first joint Regional Coordination Mechanism/United Nations Development Group thematic working group on youth, established in 2012, consolidated the normative, policy and operational capacities of the United Nations system at the regional level into a single framework. Highlights of the work of the seven working groups include: (a) agreement on an inter-agency strategy for the improvement of gender statistics under the thematic working group on gender equality and the empowerment of women; (b) an inter-agency publication on green growth, resources and resilience and environmental sustainability in Asia and the Pacific; (c) a regional implementation plan for the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics; and (d) a situation report on international migration in South and South-West Asia.

55. The Regional Coordination Mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago on 24 January 2013. The agencies produced an inter-agency document for the Conference on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Follow-up to the Development Agenda beyond 2015 and to Rio+20, held in Bogota from 7 to 9 March 2013. The document analysed the region's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, best practices in poverty reduction and the regional proposal for the development agenda beyond 2015. The Conference was preceded by a forum held on 5 and 6 March on the theme "Caribbean forum: shaping a sustainable development agenda to address the Caribbean reality in the twenty-first century", which discussed the challenges faced by Caribbean small island developing States and the need to address them in the post-2015 agenda.

56. ESCWA held its 18th Regional Coordination Mechanism in Beirut on 15 March 2013. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the League of Arab States and regional directors and representatives of the agencies of the United Nations system and other regional partners. Participants identified strategic priority areas for joint work between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in the economic, social and environmental clusters, including through the creation of a regional thematic working group on migration, co-chaired by the League of Arab States, IOM and ESCWA. The thematic working group aims to strengthen the impacts of the work carried out by member agencies by, inter alia, creating a forum for systematic information-sharing on activities, knowledge products and best practices on migration. The Regional Coordination Mechanism also offered the opportunity for participants to consult on ways to support preparations for the 2013 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, which will focus on the theme "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals", through the newly established thematic working group on the same subject. In addition, Regional Coordination Mechanism members had the opportunity to deliberate with civil society representatives on priorities for the post-2015 agenda.

Enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of Unite Nations system engagement with non-United Nations regional organizations to promote development

57. ESCWA continued to coordinate its activities with international and regional organizations, including the League of Arab States and its subsidiary bodies. The 17th meeting of the ESCWA Regional Coordination Mechanism, held in Beirut in December 2012, issued a general recommendation that confirmed the importance of enhancing coordination between the United Nations system and the League of Arab

States, with special support for the League's specialized Arab ministerial councils and a focus on capacity-building for the League and its specialized bodies. The most recent work undertaken as part of the long-lasting partnership and cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States consisted of joint preparations for the fourth Arab Millennium Development Goals report, expected by June 2013, and preparatory activities for the future establishment of a regional poverty mapping system for measuring poverty at the regional level and providing alternatives to address it.

58. The African Union Commission and ECA co-chair the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and other organizations, such as the regional economic commissions, the African Development Bank and the planning and coordinating agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) actively participate in the activities of the Mechanism, as do such United Nations system organizations as the World Bank. The implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union is a major activity of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and its clusters in support of African regional organizations. The joint programme entitled "United Nations system support to the African Union capacity-building programme: diagnosis and work programme of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa clusters" is organized around nine NEPAD clusters and subclusters, operating in the framework of the Mechanism for Africa. Although it focused on actions to be undertaken in 2012, which was the final year of the African Union Commission's strategic plan, it made provision for interventions beyond 2012 in support of the forthcoming 2013-2016 strategic plan of the African Union Commission. The capacity-building programme would be extended during 2013 to the other organs of the African Union, including the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, African Peer Review Mechanism, Pan African Parliament and the regional economic commissions.

59. ESCAP collaborates closely with subregional bodies such as ASEAN, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. A concrete recent example is the support provided by ESCAP to the preparation of the international conference on the post-2015 development agenda on the theme "Development for all: stop conflicts, develop States and eradicate poverty", held in Dili from 25 to 28 February 2013, with the fragile States comprising the Group of Seven Plus, the Pacific Institute of Public Policy and the Australian Agency for International Development. The conference ensured that the voices and priorities of fragile and conflict-affected States were heard at the fourth meeting of the high-level panel on the post-2015 development agenda held in Bali, Indonesia, from 25 to 28 March 2013.

60. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, ECLAC provides support to a number of regional organizations, including the Common Market of the South/ Mercado Común del Sur, the Latin American Integration Association, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Central American Integration System and the Andean Community. During the reporting period, for instance, ECLAC provided its intellectual and operative capacities to the fulfilment of the CELAC mandate, through support for holding the 2nd meeting of regional and subregional

integration mechanisms and bodies, held in Santiago on 8 November 2012. The conclusions reached at the meeting were submitted to the CELAC summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Santiago on 27 and 28 January 2013. In the context of cooperation with UNASUR, a study on the theme "Natural resources in UNASUR: status and trends for the regional development agenda" was also launched in May 2013.

61. ECE develops partnerships with non-United Nations regional and subregional organizations to support two major integration processes in the ECE region, one related to integration in the European Union and the other related to integration in the Eurasian Union. In particular, ECE has been providing technical support on the Instruments for Pre-accession Assistance to countries of South-Eastern Europe and on the European Neighbourhood Policy instrument in countries of Eastern Europe. ECE has been also supporting the Eurasian integration process, through a number of technical cooperation activities, in partnership with the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space. A memorandum of understanding between ECE and the Eurasian Economic Commission, a legal successor of the Commission of the Customs Union and a permanent regulatory body of the customs union and the Common Economic Space, is expected to be signed in the summer of 2013 to further enhance the cooperation.

C. Enhanced interregional cooperation among the regional commissions

62. Since the previous reporting period, the executive secretaries held three regular meetings to further strengthen coordination and collaboration among the regional commissions: in Turin, Italy, in September 2012, at the sidelines of the United Nations senior managers' retreat convened by the Secretary-General; in New York in November 2012, at the margins of the dialogues of the executive secretaries with the Second Committee of the General Assembly; and in Bangkok in May 2013, at the margins of the sixty-ninth session of ESCAP, hosted by the Executive Secretary, in her capacity as the rotational annual Coordinator of the regional commissions.

63. Some of the issues discussed by the executive secretaries as part of their agenda included the follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference, focusing on implementation at the regional level; regional perspectives and contributions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; review of actions at the global and regional levels regarding the post-2015 development agenda; the organization of an interregional high-level meeting on the theme "Beyond populism: economic challenges and opportunities in democratic transitions"; and such themes as "Follow-up to Rio+20: actions and considerations at the regional level", which was addressed as part of the high-level dialogue of the executive secretaries with the Second Committee. At the sixty-ninth session of ESCAP, at a round table on the rising global South and the prospects of interregional South-South cooperation for inclusive and sustainable development", the executive secretaries, inter alia, discussed emerging patterns of interregional South-South cooperation on issues related to trade, foreign direct investment flows between developing countries; financial cooperation; and development cooperation to influence global economic governance.

64. The high-level meeting on the theme "Beyond populism: economic challenges and opportunities in democratic transitions" was organized by ESCWA in Rabat on

5 and 6 February 2013 in partnership with the other regional commissions. Drawing upon experiences across the regions, the meeting focused on, inter alia, different options available to countries in their transition to democracy in order to address the current multiple challenges facing them and to launch inclusive growth; how external factors can affect democratic transition and the role of externals actors in undermining or supporting the political transition to democracy; and opportunities and obstacles to achieving a fully democratic Arab world and the role of regional cooperation and integration in that process. Co-organized by the Government of Morocco, the meeting was attended by a number of high-level Arab and international political leaders, policymakers and development practitioners with relevant experience in the fields of democratic transition and socioeconomic reform.

65. The joint report of the regional commissions entitled "A regional perspective on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda" was issued during the first half of 2013. The report offers an integrated approach to the formulation of priority options for a future global development agenda, by identifying key regional priority areas for a post-Millennium Development Goals agenda. It assesses the political and socioeconomic context in which the current Millennium Development Goals agenda was formulated and the challenges and opportunities it presented. One of the key messages contained in the report is that despite the many commonalities among the regions, their different circumstances call for a nuanced approach that addresses regional specificities.

66. To complement that reflection, the regional commissions are preparing a joint report on the theme "Sustainable development: advancing integration of its three pillars through regional action", to be issued in the second half of 2013. The report aims to ensure that regional perspectives and experiences are at the heart of global processes to advance the Rio+20 agenda. The report will define the regional implications of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, and consider regional platforms for more inclusive development dialogues and action.

67. The annual meetings of the chiefs of programme planning of the regional commissions also continued to serve as a forum for sharing experiences and best practices on issues of mutual priorities and common concern. In addition, the regional commissions continued to partner in the implementation of a number of interregional development account projects, including those in the areas of trade, transport, sustainable development and social development.

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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council: Economic Commission for Europe

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains a decision adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-fifth session, held in Geneva from 9 to 11 April 2013. The full text of the decision is available from: www.regionalcommissions.org/?p=543.

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Matters calling for action by the Council

Economic Commission for Europe

At its sixty-fifth session, held in Geneva from 9 to 11 April 2013, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) adopted decision A (65), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Council:

Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2006/38 of 27 July 2006, in which the Council endorsed the workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and also endorsed the revised terms of reference of the Commission,

Noting the adoption by acclamation by the Economic Commission for Europe, at its sixty-fifth session, held in Geneva from 9 to 11 April 2013, of decision A (65) concerning the outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Endorses the outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

I. Introduction and general provisions

1. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Reform was adopted in December 2005 (document E/ECE/1434/Rev.1, which is reconfirmed subject to decision A (65)). Member States decided at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission in 2011 to carry out a review of the Reform. The Modalities of the 2011-2012 review, which were adopted by the Executive Committee and finalized in July 2011,[1] state that: "Bearing in mind the overall objective of an improved allocation of resources within the Commission (both within the Committees and subprogrammes and between them) based on clearly defined and updated mandates, the reduction of the current overstretch, and an increased emphasis on areas in which the Commission has a clear demonstrable added value, the Executive Committee would review the work and priorities within each of the eight subprogrammes implemented by ECE."

2. A series of consultations with all member States were held and the Executive Committee received reports of all Sectoral Committees. A road map for the review was later developed and another series of consultations was held with interested member States ("Friends of the Chair") at which member States expressed broad satisfaction with the work of ECE and its secretariat. Some member States expressed concerns regarding duplication of work and clear demonstrable added value.

[1] See appendix I, Modalities of the 2011-2012 review of the 2005 Economic Commission for Europe Reform (ECE/EX/6).

3. All documentation relevant to the review, including information about the financial and human resources per work area of each subprogramme, is available from www.unece.org and will be regularly updated in the future.

4. The Executive Committee recommends that the Commission adopt the following decision.

II. Priorities of the programme of work

5. In view of the importance of relevant global conferences and initiatives, such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the Secretary-General, and their potential implications for ECE, the Commission expresses its commitment to play, within its current mandate and existing resources, an active part in the appropriate regional and global implementation of their outcomes, and invites its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat to suggest to the Executive Committee possible ways to enhance their contribution to implementing those outcomes.

6. The following priorities and activities were identified in the review process to be implemented within the existing regular budgetary and additional extrabudgetary resources under the overall guidance and decisions of the Sectoral Committees and the Executive Committee.

A. Environment subprogramme

7. The ECE Environment subprogramme, the Committee on Environmental Policy and its related subsidiary bodies work within current mandates in an efficient way, producing concrete results in a regular and ongoing way that have a clear value added for the region and beyond and that attract extrabudgetary funding.

8. On the basis of the above:

(a) The subprogramme and its subsidiary bodies should continue implementing existing mandates under the overall guidance of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Executive Committee and should, subject to the latter's approval, implement relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The subprogramme should also continue its capacity-building activities, from extrabudgetary resources, of particular benefit to the countries in the ECE region;

(b) In allocating regular budgetary resources, full account should be taken of the increasing number of instruments administered by the subprogramme and the Environment Division so that they can continue, without reduction in their resources and capacities, to do their work and service all the subsidiary bodies in an efficient way in the future, while fully recognizing the obligation of ECE to service the five multilateral environmental agreements.

B. Transport subprogramme

9. The Transport subprogramme is a unique United Nations centre providing a comprehensive regional and global platform for consideration of all aspects of inland-transport development and cooperation. The ECE Transport subprogramme, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its related subsidiary bodies work within

current mandates in an efficient way, producing concrete results in a regular and ongoing way that have clear value added for the region and beyond.

10. On the basis of the above:

(a) The subprogramme and its subsidiary bodies should continue implementing existing mandates under the overall guidance of ITC and the Executive Committee. It shall strengthen its focus on the areas of harmonization of vehicle regulations, road safety, transport of dangerous goods, border-crossing facilitation including the TIR Convention, unified railway law, implementation of the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), intelligent transport systems. It will further explore synergies among those areas of work with an overarching goal of promoting sustainable transport that is safe, clean and competitive;

(b) In allocating regular budgetary resources, full account should be taken of the increasing needs of the subprogramme and the Transport Division so that they can continue, with an increase in their resources and capacities, to do their work and service all the subsidiary bodies in an efficient way in the future, in particular in the areas mentioned under (a) of paragraph 10.

C. Subprogramme on statistics

11. The ECE subprogramme on statistics, the Conference of European Statisticians and its related subsidiary bodies work within current mandates in an efficient way, producing concrete results (methodological principles, recommendations, guidelines and databases) in a regular and ongoing way that have a clear value added for the region and beyond, and that attract extrabudgetary funding, including from outside the region.

12. On the basis of the above:

(a) The subprogramme and its subsidiary bodies should continue implementing existing mandates under the overall guidance of the Conference of European Statisticians and the Executive Committee, and should continue the good cooperation with partner organizations such as Eurostat, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Statistical Committee, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Particular attention should be given to the work on measuring sustainable development, and the subprogramme should continue its capacity-building activities from extrabudgetary resources of particular benefit to the countries in the ECE region;

(b) In allocating regular budgetary resources, due regard should be given to the needs of the subprogramme and the Statistics Division so that they can continue, without reduction in their resources and capacities, to do their work and service all the subsidiary bodies in an efficient way in the future.

D. Subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration

13. The ECE subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration produces certain concrete results, in particular in the areas of innovation and public-private partnerships, that have value added for the beneficiary countries and that attract extrabudgetary funding.

14. On the basis of the above:

(a) The subprogramme and its subsidiary bodies should continue implementing existing mandates on innovation and competitiveness and on public-private partnerships under the overall guidance of the respective Committee and the Executive Committee;

(b) Work on public-private partnerships deserves further impetus with a view to delivering concrete results within clear time frames and with more attention given to the exchange of best practices;

(c) Work on intellectual property should be integrated into the work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. Recognizing that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the pre-eminent international organization for intellectual property, any technical cooperation activities related to intellectual property should, in principle, be carried out by WIPO. To that end, ECE will continue, until the end of 2014, to carry out, in the interest of the States members of ECE, existing technical cooperation activities on the commercialization of intellectual property in close cooperation with WIPO, with the understanding that WIPO would take over that work. At the conclusion of this transitional phase in early 2015, those activities will be evaluated by the Executive Committee. In the event that WIPO is not able, after the end of 2014, to carry out certain technical cooperation activities on the commercialization of intellectual property in the interest of the States members of ECE, the Executive Committee can agree, on a case-by-case basis and provided extrabudgetary funding is available, that such activities be carried out by ECE;

(d) In allocating regular budgetary resources, due regard should be given to the needs of the subprogramme and the Trade and Economic Cooperation Division so that they can do their work and service the subsidiary bodies in an efficient way in the future.

E. Subprogramme on sustainable energy

15. The ECE subprogramme on sustainable energy and its Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsidiary bodies continue to provide member States with a platform for international dialogue and cooperation and are mandated to carry out a programme of work in the field of sustainable energy with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the Secretary-General, and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector.

16. On the basis of the above:

(a) The Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies will, under updated mandates and work programmes in accordance with the outcome of the informal consultations on sustainable energy reflected in appendix II, focus on issues related to energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane, United Nations framework classification and natural gas. The Committee will continue its energy security dialogue;

(b) In allocating regular budgetary resources, due regard should be given to the needs of the subprogramme and Division, including the new objectives, areas of work and activities as reflected in appendix II, so that they can continue to do their

work and service the subsidiary bodies in an efficient way in the future, without jeopardizing the level of resources and capacities needed to implement the updated mandates and workplans.

F. Subprogramme on trade

17. The ECE subprogramme on trade undertakes value added standard-setting work through Working Party 6 (Regulatory cooperation) and Working Party 7 (Agricultural quality standards) and through the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), which has a global participation and its own structure in which decision-making is centred in the Bureau and the Plenary.

18. On the basis of the above:

(a) The subprogramme should continue implementing its standard-setting mandates and strengthen its standard-setting activities in Working Parties 6 and 7 under the overall guidance of the Committee on Trade, and in UN/CEFACT under the overall guidance of the Executive Committee.[2] Capacity-building and technical assistance activities to help countries in the region to implement standards developed under the subprogramme may be decided by the Executive Committee if they are financed from extrabudgetary resources, demand-driven, results-oriented, time limited and closely coordinated with other international actors, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC);

(b) Standard-setting bodies should improve communication and emphasize the practical and political importance of their technical outputs (e.g., in terms of facilitating trade, improving the quality of food, making harbours in the world work efficiently, etc.);

(c) In allocating regular budgetary resources, due regard should be given to the needs of the subprogramme and the Trade and Economic Cooperation Division so that they can continue to do their work and service the subsidiary bodies in an efficient way in the future.

G. Subprogramme on forestry and timber

19. The ECE subprogramme on forestry and timber, the Timber Committee and its related subsidiary bodies work within current mandates in an efficient way, producing concrete results in a regular and ongoing way that have clear value added and that attract extrabudgetary funding. They benefit from well-established, long-term cooperation between ECE and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the implementation of an integrated work programme.

20. On the basis of the above:

(a) The subprogramme and its subsidiary bodies should, under the guidance of the Timber Committee and the Executive Committee, continue implementing current mandates and, together with FAO, implement the integrated work

[2] At the end of 2014, the Executive Committee may decide, after evaluation, whether it is desirable for UN/CEFACT to report to the Committee on Trade.

programme, taking into account the results of the ongoing 2013 ECE/FAO Strategic Review, to which member States will provide further input;

(b) The Timber Committee is renamed "Committee on Forest and Forest Industry", following the recommendations of the Timber Committee at its seventieth session (Geneva, 16-19 October 2012). The new name is consistent with the current mandate (ECE/TIM/2008/7-FO:EFC/08/7) and therefore the name change does not imply change in the Committee's mandate;

(c) In allocating regular budgetary resources, due regard should be given to the needs of the subprogramme and the Timber and Forestry Unit so that they can continue, without reduction in their resources and capacities, to do their work and service the subsidiary bodies in an efficient way in the future.

H. Subprogramme on housing, land management and population

21. The subprogramme on housing, land management and population, the Committee on Housing and Land Management and its subsidiary bodies work within current mandates and produce certain useful concrete results that attract extrabudgetary funding.

22. On the basis of the above:

(a) The work of the component on housing and land management should continue under the guidance of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Executive Committee with a particular focus on sustainable housing and urban development, especially in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(b) The work on population should continue under the guidance of the Executive Committee and taking into account the outcome of the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (Vienna, September 2012) while avoiding duplication of work of other international actors such as the United Nations Commission for Social Development, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);

(c) In allocating regular budgetary resources, due regard should be given to the needs of the subprogramme and the subsidiary bodies so that they can continue to do their work in an efficient way in the future.

I. Gender issues

23. Work on gender issues should continue within the current mandate and not exceeding existing resources, and under the overall guidance of the Executive Committee.

III. Relations with other organizations

24. Member States emphasized the importance of a more structured and systematic cooperation with other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as other relevant organizations, to achieve synergies and complementarity of efforts, and to avoid possible overlap and duplication.

IV. Management (Office of the Executive Secretary)

25. Member States emphasized the important role of the Office of the Executive Secretary in providing overall direction to the ECE secretariat, promoting synergies among different subprogrammes, and making timely proposals to the Executive Committee to ensure tangible and effective contributions towards the outcomes of the relevant United Nations and other regional and global conferences and initiatives. The Office of the Executive Secretary also bears overall responsibility for sound management and allocation and use of available human and financial resources.

V. Evaluation and reporting

26. Member States emphasized the importance of internal controls, oversight and evaluation functions carried out by the Office of the Executive Secretary, as well as the interaction between the Executive Committee and the Sectoral Committees, inter alia, through proper evaluation,[3] reporting and discussion on evaluation of subprogramme performance. Reports on the use of human and financial resources and on ongoing activities, as well as on possible future activities and the possible future use of resources, as provided to the Executive Committee in the framework of the review process, shall be regularly updated and forwarded to that Committee for possible action.

VI. Harmonizing procedures and practices

27. The Executive Committee should see to it that all subsidiary bodies and the secretariat apply the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies as contained in appendix III.

VII. Communication and public outreach

28. Member States noted the Communication Strategy issued by the secretariat, which aims at making communication materials more adapted to a targeted audience and a better use of the Internet, suggests a more client-oriented approach and proposes ways to electronically enhance the visibility of ECE products and services beyond the ECE region. Member States expect that the Strategy will help to further improve the image of ECE, attract more attention to its achievements and allow the secretariat to enhance its communications, public relations and contacts with the media. Member States noted their responsibility for the implementation of the Communication Strategy.

29. Member States stressed the importance of timely distribution of the information and documentation for ECE meetings in all three working languages. The secretariat should also make the necessary effort to ensure the equal treatment of all working languages for the purpose of information dissemination and news coverage with special attention to the ECE official website.

[3] See United Nations Evaluation Group, Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the United Nations System (UNEG/FN/Norms, 2005 and UNEG/FN/Standards, 2005) and Guide for Biennial Evaluations of Subprogramme Performance by United Nations ECE Sectoral Committees.

VIII. Resources

30. Member States expressed their satisfaction with the overall level of transparency on the past use of resources generated in the course of the review process, and encourage the secretariat to continue providing requested information.

31. In the framework of the reform review process, member States:

(a) Agreed that the mobilization, allocation and use of extrabudgetary resources should be done in accordance with United Nations rules and procedures, in support of the ECE mandate and subject to the Executive Committee's approval of extrabudgetary projects. To assure transparency and accountability on the use of these resources, the Executive Committee should be informed, throughout the project cycle, of the use of resources and the concrete results achieved;

(b) Identified three posts at present allocated to the Global Trade Solutions Section of the Trade Division and used for capacity-building activities (two P-4 posts and one P-2 post), and agreed that two of the posts could, after completion of their present activities and at the latest by January 2014, be transferred to the Transport Division, to be used primarily to service Working Party 29, whereas the remaining post should be reallocated internally in the Division to servicing the standard-setting activities;

(c) Agreed to merge, by January 2014, the Division on Trade and the Division on Economic Cooperation and Integration into one single Division on Trade and Economic Cooperation. That synergy would free one D-1 post and a General Service post which could, possibly after a renaming, be reallocated to those activities in the organization that suffer from an overstretched use of their current resources and which should help to respond to budget cuts imposed from Headquarters in New York. Member States encourage the secretariat to identify other personnel and resource efficiencies that could result from this merger. The merger should not negatively affect the output of the work programme of the merged divisions;

(d) Agreed on the need of a reorganization of the different ECE divisions with a view to creating a flatter and more harmonized internal management structure, so as to free up management posts, that should, possibly after a renaming, be reallocated to those activities in the organization that suffer from an overstretched use of their current resources and which should help to respond to budget cuts imposed from Headquarters in New York;

(e) Agreed that urgent contacts should be taken with the Regional Office of the Population Fund in Istanbul, to start cooperation between the ECE Population Unit and that Regional Office, with a view to freeing up, where possible, ECE resources currently allocated to population-related activities for reallocation to those activities in the ECE organization that suffer from an overstretched use of their current resources;

(f) Agreed that the secretariat should investigate the possibilities of merging the activities on gender and population with a view of freeing up resources that could, possibly after a renaming, be reallocated to those activities in the organization that suffer from an overstretched use of their current resources;

(g) Agreed that the Trade Committee and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration will, from 2013 onwards, organize their two-day annual

meetings back to back, in the same week. Member States agree in principle that both Committees should further synergize their work. The secretariat is invited to draw up a report by the summer of 2014 so as to allow the Executive Committee to take a decision, before 1 December 2014, on whether or not to merge the two Committees.

32. Member States emphasized the importance of continued effective and efficient use of the ECE limited budgetary and human resources as well as of further efforts to ensure an adequate level of regular budget resources for ECE to fulfil its mandate.

33. Member States, other partners and organizations are encouraged to support mandated ECE activities and work programmes with additional resources in accordance with the existing rules, regulations and practices.

Appendix I

Modalities of the 2011-2012 review of the 2005 Economic Commission for Europe Reform (ECE/EX/6 of 21 September 2011)

Background

1. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), at its sixty-fourth session, held at Geneva from 29 to 31 March 2011, recalled the ECE Reform adopted in December 2005, welcomed its implementation and achievements, and underlined the importance of its first five-year review, that would take place in 2011-2012, with a view to drawing conclusions on the future work priorities of ECE.

2. The Commission reaffirmed the strategic directions adopted by the 2005 ECE Reform, without prejudice to the outcome of the 2011-2012 review of that reform, which should make use of lessons learned and best practices.

3. The Commission requested the Executive Committee to duly consider the outputs, as appropriate, of the discussion at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission when it reviewed the work programmes of the ECE Sectoral Committees during the intersessional period, and similarly requested the respective Sectoral Committees of ECE to duly consider the said outputs, as appropriate. The Commission also invited the Executive Committee to consider how to better interact with the Chairs of ECE Sectoral Committees with the aim of ensuring its role in terms of governance and oversight in the intersessional period.

4. The Commission invited the Executive Committee to decide on the modalities of the upcoming review which it will carry out with a view to proposing decisions on the matter to be taken by the Commission at its next session (in 2013).

5. In May 2011, the secretariat presented to the Executive Committee, as requested by the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, information on the current allocation and use of resources provided to ECE in the 2010-2011 programme budget under all main thematic areas of work within the subprogrammes implemented by ECE[4] with a link to all main products and services delivered in 2010, along with information on the availability of non-staff resources provided under the regular budget (Section 19) (informal document 2011/4). Information was also provided on work carried out and resources available in 2010 from the Regular

[4] (1) Environment, (2) Transport, (3) Statistics, (4) Economic Cooperation and Integration, (5) Sustainable Energy, (6) Trade, (7) Timber and Forestry, (8) Housing, Land Management and Population.

Programme for Technical Cooperation (Section 22) and the United Nations Development Account (Section 35), as well as extrabudgetary resources (Report on Technical Cooperation Activities, informal document 2011/6).

6. The modalities for the above-mentioned review as specified below were adopted on 21 July 2011 through a silence procedure, following discussions of informal documents 2011/5 and 2011/5/Rev.1 by the Executive Committee on 10 May 2011 and 24 June 2011, respectively.

Principles

7. The review process will be based on a number of good principles or practices, including transparency, resource efficiency, clarity about why ECE should engage in an activity, what the Commission's value added is, identification of duplication of work and of possible savings both within the Commission and with other United Nations and international organizations, etc. The review process as well as its outcomes should be results-oriented.

Modalities of the review

Review of subprogrammes

8. Bearing in mind the overall objective of an improved allocation of resources within the Commission (both within the Committees and subprogrammes and between them) based on clearly defined and updated mandates, the reduction of the current overstretch, and an increased emphasis on areas in which the Commission has clear demonstrable added value, the Executive Committee would review the work and priorities within each of the eight subprogrammes implemented by ECE. The Executive Committee may wish to decide on the schedule/timing of these reviews. A possible period is from autumn 2011 to summer 2012.

9. In a first step, the secretariat will provide the Executive Committee with a clear picture of the current mandates of the committees and their subsidiary bodies; the extent to which these mandates have been carried out over the past years in a resource-efficient way; and their added value vis-à-vis activities currently undertaken by other United Nations bodies or international organizations. For this, a complete picture of the activities, the input (human and financial resources) and the output (list of results) per subsidiary body would be useful, building on informal document 2011/4.

10. The secretariat would solicit inputs from the Chairs of Sectoral Committees and, through them, their main subsidiary bodies (e.g., working parties, teams of specialists, etc.). The purpose would be to identify within each subprogramme:

(a) Priority areas of current work and results achieved;

(b) Possible new and emerging issues and expected results;

(c) Possibilities for streamlining and synergizing activities within each of the expected results;

(d) Ways of improving efficiency and methods of work;

(e) Expected results and related activities that may need to be reoriented/refocused to better reflect priority demands of member States;

(f) Possible optimization of the structure of the programme of work;

(g) Ways of improving communication and public outreach.

This should take into account the results of the evaluations of the subprogrammes, in particular those carried out by respective Sectoral Committees, after the 2005 Reform. It should also take into account the results of regular priority-setting processes carried out within the Sectoral Committees. The Executive Committee will request the Sectoral Committees to carry out their priority setting bearing in mind the above-listed elements under "purpose".

11. In a second step, for each subprogramme the secretariat will prepare, for consideration by the Executive Committee, documents which will identify possible future work priorities and the desirable and projected outputs in each area (objectives should as much as possible be formulated in a way that allows results to be measured, and each activity could have a sunset clause when appropriate, linked in particular to the achievement of a previously defined objective). An effort should be made to determine the activities that need to be enhanced and those that may be abolished, in order to better reflect the evolving needs and priorities of member States, as decided by the Executive Committee. Any identified duplication of work between ECE and other United Nations bodies and international organizations should not automatically lead to the abolishment of the work area in question. Careful consideration should be given to the comparative advantages, cooperation and synergies, relevance to the mandate, efficacy, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the work. These considerations should guide the review process and member States' decision in order to enable ECE to focus its activities and resources on areas in which it has maximum impact, relevance, visibility and legitimacy.

12. The Chairs/Bureaux of Sectoral Committees could be invited to participate in meetings of the Executive Committee when the respective subprogrammes will be reviewed.

Review of programmatic activities reported directly to the Executive Committee

13. The Executive Committee would also carry out a review of programmatic activities which are reported directly to it (e.g., ageing, gender), taking into account provisions of paragraphs 8 to 12 above, as appropriate.

Finalization of the review

14. In a third step, in the second trimester of 2012, after the conclusion of the review of subprogrammes and their activities as outlined above, the Executive Committee would carry out a cross-sectoral review and formulate recommendations on the future ECE work priorities to be submitted for approval by the Commission in 2013. Key criteria for the cross-sectoral review include relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. Workplans for any activities should clearly define the end objectives and provide for sunset clauses when appropriate.

Appendix II

Outcome of the informal consultations on sustainable energy

The present document was written by the facilitator in the framework of the review of the 2005 Reform process and reflects the consensus reached between States members of ECE.

I. General

The Committee on Sustainable Energy is an intergovernmental body that provides member States with a platform for international dialogue and cooperation and is mandated to carry out a programme of work in the field of sustainable energy with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the Secretary-General, and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. The Committee and its subsidiary bodies will carry out concrete and results-oriented activities with the aim of achieving the specific objectives identified for each priority area, and they will work in accordance with the Executive Committee's Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies.

The objectives, areas of work and concrete results-oriented activities indicated under each topic will orient the work of experts, who may suggest additional areas of work and activities within agreed mandates. All activities should have a clear demonstrable value added, be coordinated with and complementary to the work of other relevant international actors without duplicating their work or mandates.[5] Specific activities to be carried out within the overall framework of the objectives and areas of work mentioned in this document shall be decided in a member States-driven process and be carried out in an efficient and transparent way.

The Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies will focus on issues related to: energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane (CMM), United Nations framework classification and natural gas. The Committee will continue its energy security dialogue.

II. Energy efficiency

Objective

In line with the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the Secretary-General, ECE should focus on activities that help to significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts;

Strengthening regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Areas of work

Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing financial, technical and policy barriers to improve energy efficiency;

[5] See appendix I, Modalities of the 2011-2012 review of the 2005 Economic Commission for Europe Reform (ECE/EX/6), para. 11.

Sharing experience and best practices in the field of energy efficiency in the Economic Commission for Europe region, including on strengthening institutional capacity in energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Concrete activities

Improving efficiency of distribution by raising awareness on smart grids;

Encouraging the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States, in order to help to attract investments into energy efficiency;

Help to share the experience of the Economic Commission for Europe and its members in the area of energy efficiency, with member States of other regions, through the Special Representative for the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative;

In addition, States members of ECE could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates, including specific projects at the regional level, aimed at improving regulatory and institutional frameworks for energy efficiency.

III. Cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels

Objective

The Economic Commission for Europe should focus on activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production from fossil fuels. Activities aimed at cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels should be developed and implemented with the active participation of States members of ECE, representatives from the energy and financial sectors and civil society, independent experts and academia.

Areas of work

Regulatory and policy dialogue;

Sharing best practices in the field of cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels in the ECE region;

Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS);

Enhanced oil recovery with CO^2;

Advanced fossil fuels technologies for power generation.

Concrete activities

Examples of specific CCUS international activities for States members of ECE to consider are opportunities to collaborate and actively participate in several upcoming Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) Working Groups on the following topics:

Technical working group activities in CO_2 utilization options;

CCUS technology gaps closure;

Carbon capture energy penalty reduction;

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) with industrial emissions sources;

Technical challenges for conversion of CO_2-enhanced oil recovery (EOR) to CCS;

Identifying and assessing links between technology-related risks and liability;

Competition of CCS with other resources;

Stimulating introduction of innovative technologies, notably on electricity with a focus on controlling emissions.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (GCCSI) and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum each conduct a wide range of activities related to CCUS, many of which should be of interest to various States members of ECE. Rather than propose a specific set of projects at this time, non-duplicative projects that are of the most value could be developed through dialogue between these organizations and ECE.

The Committee on Sustainable Energy will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States in order to attract investments in advanced fossil fuels technologies for electricity generation with a view to supporting industrial and economic competitiveness and achieving low-carbon sustainable development.

Work on cleaner electricity production is not limited to CCUS. States members of ECE could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates.

IV. Renewable energy

Objective

In line with the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the Secretary-General, ECE should focus on activities that help to significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help to achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE region.

Areas of work

Regulatory and policy dialogue and sharing best practices on various renewable energy sources, including biomass, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

Concrete activities

The Committee on Sustainable Energy will help member States, at their request, to identify those communities in the ECE region that, at present, have no access to energy, and it will help to suggest ways to ensure that these communities have access to renewable or alternative sources of energy as soon as possible. Energy companies could be asked to help to achieve that objective.

In view of existing ECE expertise, the Committee will work:

(a) On increasing energy production from renewable sources throughout the region;

(b) On activities that will improve access to heat and power from renewable energy sources in the ECE region, including for the communities referred to above;

(c) On sustainable development of non-forest-based biomass production.

Encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States in order to attract investments in energy production from renewable sources, such as in wind, solar and hydropower projects as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

In addition, States members of ECE could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy within agreed mandates. The activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme are complementary to and implemented in cooperation and coordination with other ECE subprogrammes, in particular with the ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber subprogramme.

V. Coal mine methane

Objective

To promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines.

Areas of work

Best practice guidance for effective methane drainage development and dissemination.

Concrete activities

Electronically disseminate the *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines*[6] to all major stakeholders in the ECE region and beyond, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council (decision 2011/222), before August 2013;

Prepare suggestions, by August 2013, on how to develop, as appropriate, similar best practices guidance for aspects of coal mine methane (CMM) management that are not covered in detail by the current document, such as best practice drilling or low-concentration methane drainage;

Prepare proposals, by August 2013, for case studies, where appropriate and financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world.

If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal broader safety issues, they may communicate them to the International Labour Organization (ILO) for consideration in its coal mine safety guidelines.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. 10.11.E.2.

VI. United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources

Objective

Classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources.

Areas of work

United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC).

Concrete activities

Electronically disseminate the UNFC to all major stakeholders by August 2013;

Finalizing the generic specifications by December 2013 to make the UNFC operational;

Develop ideas on how the UNFC could apply to and integrate renewable energy by December 2013;

Develop proposals on how to conduct ongoing maintenance, technical advice, guidance and periodic updates to the UNFC in order to ensure that the system remains relevant and useful, and operates efficiently in the light of ongoing technological developments, including in the field of carbon capture and storage.

VII. Natural gas

Objective

Provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution and consumption of gas in the ECE region.

Areas of work

Policy dialogue and exchange of information and experience among ECE member countries on:

Gas-related issues of regional relevance, including the role of gas in the global energy mix;

The relation between natural gas and the environment.

Concrete activities

Studies, delivered in a timely way, on the sustainable and clean production, transport and use of gas, including on:

(a) Issues that emerge from natural gas market studies carried out in the past;

(b) Methods of preventing gas losses and leakages during production and distribution.

Maintain a transparent dialogue between governments and the gas industry through the extrabudgetary Gas Centre programme.

Appendix III

Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for Economic Commission for Europe Bodies

I. General

1. The work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat is based on the Charter of the United Nations, the terms of reference of ECE as adopted by the Economic and Social Council, the rules of procedure of ECE, and relevant United Nations rules and regulations, and is in line with those guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies and the secretariat. It should be ensured, at all administrative levels of the secretariat and for all bodies of the Commission, that the work is carried out in a way that is member-driven, participatory, consensus-oriented, transparent, responsive, effective, efficient, results-oriented and accountable. The Commission and its subsidiary bodies should continue their existing practice of inviting, without a right to vote, other relevant stakeholders such as international organizations, private sector representatives, members of academia or representatives of civil society.

II. Rules of procedure

2. All Sectoral Committees and other subsidiary bodies may adopt their own rules of procedure on the basis of the ECE rules of procedure and, where applicable, the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, taking into account these guidelines. Otherwise it will be presumed that they are governed by the rules of procedure of the Commission and, where applicable, the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, and taking into account these guidelines mutatis mutandis.

III. Communication with the member States

3. The secretariat will continue to communicate with the member States in accordance with the official channels of communication. In cases where the secretariat communicates directly with national experts and counterparts, all correspondence will be copied to the Permanent Representations. Similarly, when the secretariat requires assistance in identifying national experts, it will communicate with the line ministries with a copy to the Permanent Representations.

IV. Accreditation process for participants/representatives to intergovernmental bodies

4. In meetings of subsidiary bodies, member States shall be represented by officially designated representatives whose names shall be communicated to the secretariat by the respective Permanent Representations, and made available by the secretariat.

5. Officially designated representatives of the member States who work in the Geneva Permanent Representations and are duly authorized, including persons accredited to the Executive Committee, may take part in the meetings without any restrictions to participate in the discussion and in the decision-making process.

6. Officially designated representatives and other participants to all bodies of ECE should be registered by the secretariat in the respective lists of participants, which will be communicated to the Permanent Representations.

V. Nomination and election of Chairs and other members of the Bureaux of intergovernmental bodies

7. Candidates for the Bureaux of the Sectoral Committees and other subsidiary bodies shall be nominated by member States based on the person's expertise, professionalism and expected support from the membership. The candidatures for election should be made available to all member States well in advance of the elections and preferably agreed upon.

8. The members of the Bureaux shall be elected by the respective body according to the relevant rules of procedure and following consultations among member States. Elected Bureaux members serve collectively in the interest of all member States. In the absence of rules of procedure of such body, the composition of the Bureau should take into account expertise, with due regard to as wide a geographical representation as possible; the term of office should be up to two years. Bureau members, including the Chair, can be re-elected for an additional term.

9. A Bureau may invite major stakeholders active in the area of the subprogramme to attend the meetings of the Bureau and contribute to its work, without the right to vote.

VI. Functions of the Bureaux

10. The key functions of the Bureaux are:

(a) To monitor and ensure implementation of the programme of work and of past decisions and recommendations during intersessional periods;

(b) To ensure effective and transparent preparations of forthcoming sessions and, for that purpose, to collectively outreach and consult with all member States, and other stakeholders as appropriate;

(c) To ensure effective conduct of business during the sessions in full compliance with their respective rules of procedure, taking into account these Guidelines, and to facilitate reaching agreement on decisions and recommendations.

11. In addition to those tasks, the Bureaux help the consensus-building process by means of transparent and inclusive consultations on draft outcomes of the subsidiary bodies, including draft decisions, conclusions and recommendations that might be proposed by representatives of member States.

12. The Bureaux do not adopt the conclusions, recommendations, decisions and meeting reports of the subsidiary bodies.

13. In their activities, the Bureaux should coordinate with the secretariat on all relevant issues.

VII. Procedures for the adoption of decisions and reports of intergovernmental bodies

14. When taking a decision, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall continue their existing practice of making every effort to reach a consensus.

On draft decisions

15. Without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Commission, any draft conclusions, recommendations or decisions which ECE bodies within their competence are expected to discuss and adopt at their meetings, should be prepared in line with items 9 to 12 and distributed by the secretariat to all participants and Permanent Representations in Geneva at least 10 days before the start of the meeting, for information, so as to allow participants to finalize their position during the meeting in order to adopt conclusions, recommendations and decisions. That does not prejudice the possibility for member States to propose additional agenda items, draft conclusions, recommendations or decisions at the meeting. Should the submission of draft proposals not be possible 10 days prior to a meeting, the prevailing rules of procedure will be used to determine how such draft proposals will be considered in order not to block the decision-making process.

16. The secretariat should make available only those draft conclusions, recommendations or decisions for discussion and adoption that are proposed by one or more member States.

17. The secretariat can make proposals on administrative issues within its prerogatives.

18. Draft conclusions, recommendations and decisions are formally adopted by the subsidiary body at the end of the session. Drafts should be projected on a screen, where possible, and read out by the Chair.

19. If a draft conclusion, recommendation or decision cannot be adopted at the meeting for technical reasons, the subsidiary body may decide to circulate it to all Permanent Representations in Geneva for subsequent approval.

On draft reports

20. A draft report of the meeting, which reflects in a concise and factual manner the discussion and the views expressed by participants, should be circulated well in advance of the end of the meeting for comments and adoption by member States at the end of the meeting.

21. If the draft report cannot be circulated at or adopted during the meeting for technical reasons, the subsidiary body may decide to distribute it to all Permanent Representations in Geneva for subsequent approval.

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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General**

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic Commission for Africa and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on resolutions and decisions adopted at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (forty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Africa), held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, and at the sixty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. The full texts of the resolutions are available from www.un.org/regionalcommissions/sessions.html.

* E/2013/100.

** The report was submitted late in order to allow for the inclusion of information on resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, May 2013.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

Draft resolution

1. At its forty-sixth session, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) adopted resolution 908 (XLVI), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council.

Refocusing and recalibrating the Economic Commission for Africa to support Africa's structural transformation

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 908 (XLVI), entitled "Refocusing and recalibrating the Economic Commission for Africa to support Africa's structural transformation", adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, by which the Conference endorsed the revised strategic framework and related proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Endorses the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex
Statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

Article I
Purpose and functions of the Institute

1. The primary purpose of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning shall be the specialist training of the officials of those services and institutions in Africa responsible for economic policy design and management; and development planning, monitoring and evaluation. Such training shall include appropriate supportive research activities. The Institute shall also organize workshops, seminars and policy dialogues of varied duration on practical problems of national, regional and international development pertinent to its training mandate and the needs of African Governments.

2. The four core functions of the Institute shall be to:

(a) Provide at its headquarters and at any other location in Africa, training courses, encompassing short and post-graduate programmes, of varying duration on various aspects of economic policy design and management, and development planning, monitoring and evaluation;

(b) Organize in African countries, in cooperation with the appropriate national services, subregional and regional bodies and international specialized agencies, seminars and policy dialogues of varying duration on practical problems

relating to national and continental economic management, development and planning;

(c) Provide advisory services at the request of Governments, doing so in close concert and collaboration with the relevant programme divisions of the Economic Commission for Africa, and insofar as its training programme allows;

(d) Establish and maintain documentation which will be made available throughout Africa in hard-copy and electronic formats to researchers, national institutions and subregional and regional organizations working in the field of economic planning and development.

3. In undertaking these four functions, the Institute should take into account the paramount importance of promoting and defending the economic independence of African countries.

Article II
Site of the Institute

1. The headquarters of the Institute shall be situated in Dakar, Senegal.

2. The host Government shall provide, in agreement with the United Nations, adequate premises, facilities and services as required for the efficient operation of the Institute.

Article III
Status and organization of the Institute

1. The Institute is and shall operate as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. The Institute shall have its own governing council and budget. It shall be subject to the financial regulations and the staff regulations of the United Nations, except as may be otherwise provided for by the General Assembly. It shall also be subject to the financial rules, the staff rules and all other administrative issuances of the Secretary-General, except as may be otherwise decided by him or her.

3. In addition, there shall be a technical advisory committee, a Director and supporting staff.

Article IV
Governing Council

1. The Governing Council shall be the prime oversight and decision-making organ of the Institute, and shall act to give effect to the broad directions established for the work of the Institute by the Economic Commission for Africa, Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

2. The Governing Council shall be composed as follows:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(b) Ten representatives of African Governments, two each from the five subregions of the continent (Central Africa, Eastern Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa);

(c) One representative of the Government of Senegal as host country;

(d) One representative of the African Union Commission;

(e) The Director of the Institute in an ex officio capacity and serving as the Secretary of the Governing Council.

3. The 10 members of the Governing Council who serve as representatives of African Governments shall be appointed by the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the basis of an equal representation of the five subregions of the African continent. They shall be appointed on a voluntary basis, in cognizance of their individual commitment and professional competences, and with regard to their experience in affairs connected with the work of the Institute.

4. The member of the Governing Council designated by the African Union Commission shall be recommended by the Chairperson of the Commission from among the elected officials of the Commission for appointment by the Conference.

5. All members appointed by the Conference from the five subregions of the African continent and the member appointed on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission shall serve for a period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one additional term only. Vacancies occurring owing to disability or resignation shall be filled for the interim period by the Conference.

6. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa shall be the Chairperson of the Governing Council.

7. The Governing Council shall:

(a) Adopt general principles and policies governing the operations of the Institute, including the general conditions of admissions into the Institute's programmes;

(b) Review and approve the annual work programme and budget of the Institute;

(c) Approve the courses offered by the Institute and the requirements for admission into them on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Director;

(d) Contribute to the determination of the type and nature of the certificates to be awarded at the end of the training courses offered by the Institute;

(e) Examine and approve the Director's annual report on the work and progress of the Institute, including the budgetary and financial report for the preceding year;

(f) Present an annual report on the work of the Institute, including a complete audited report in respect of all incomes and expenditures, to the annual Economic Commission for Africa Conference;

(g) Oversee the general administration of the Institute and make such recommendations as it may deem appropriate;

(h) Constitute a Technical Advisory Committee of 10 members to work with it and the Director of the Institute on the quality and relevance of programmes.

8. The Governing Council shall hold two ordinary sessions every year to adopt the budget and programme activities, review the management report and statement of accounts, approve the development of new programmes and ensure the good administration of the Institute. It may hold an extraordinary session at the request of the Chairperson or one third of its members. The Governing Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article V
Technical Advisory Committee

1. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be composed of:

(a) Ten representatives of African Governments, two each from the five subregions of the continent, as provided for in Article IV, paragraph 2 (b);

(b) The Director of Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission;

(c) The Director of the Institute.

2. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governing Council on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Council and shall normally be requested to serve for at least three years at a time.

3. The Director shall be the Chairperson of the Technical Advisory Committee.

4. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be responsible for giving technical advice with regard to the design of the training and related programmes and activities of the Institute. It shall do so with an eye on quality, relevance, timeliness, impact and sustainability.

5. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be convened at least once a year by its Chairperson. At its meeting, it shall formulate recommendations to be submitted to the Governing Council on the current and future work programme of the Institute. It shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article VI
Chairperson of the Governing Council

The Chairperson of the Council shall:

(a) Convene the Governing Council and propose its agenda;

(b) By delegation of authority from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, appoint the Director and other professional staff of the Institute;

(c) With the approval of the Governing Council, solicit and receive support for the work of the Institute from specialized agencies of the United Nations, intergovernmental agencies, African Governments, non-governmental organizations and other sources.

Article VII
Director

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, upon recommendation by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, shall appoint the Director of the Institute. The Executive Secretary shall consult with the Governing

Council before making his or her recommendation. The initial appointment of the Director shall be for three years, renewable for succeeding periods of three years each subject to a satisfactory evaluation of the performance of the incumbent in accordance with established United Nations rules and procedures.

2. The Director will be assisted by professional and general support staff appointed in accordance with the rules and procedures governing different categories of United Nations staff appointments.

3. The Director shall have the responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute. In accordance with the policies laid down by the Governing Council, she or he shall:

(a) Submit the programme and budget of the Institute to the Governing Council for approval;

(b) Carry out programmes and effect disbursements as provided for in the budget through which funds have been allocated;

(c) Submit annual reports on the activities of the Institute to the Governing Council, together with a complete report on revenue and expenditure for the preceding period;

(d) Submit the names of senior personnel for approval and appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, depending on the level of the posts to be encumbered;

(e) Select and appoint personnel of the Institute other than those referred to in subparagraph (d) above, after consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(f) Make the necessary arrangements with other national and international organizations for the utilization of the services offered by the Institute, it being understood that arrangements with national organizations will be made with the approval of the Governments concerned.

Article VIII
Cooperation with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa shall, within the limits of its resources, assist the Institute in every possible way in order to facilitate its work. In particular, from time to time it shall provide the Institute with experienced staff to give lectures, assist in supervising research within the Institute's postgraduate training programmes and participate in workshops, seminars and policy dialogue.

Article IX
Financial resources and rules governing the financial management of the Institute

The Institute shall derive its finances from contributions made by African Governments and by the United Nations. The Institute may derive further resources in cash or in kind from the United Nations, its specialized agencies, other governmental organizations and institutions, and Governments and

non-governmental organizations. Acceptance by the Institute of offers of such further assistance shall, in every case, be subject to the decision of the Chairperson of the Governing Council, in consultation with the Director of the Institute, in accordance with the basic aims of the Institute and the relevant provisions of the rules governing the financial management of the Institute. The Chairperson of the Governing Council shall report on the matter to the Council at its next session.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Draft resolution I

2. At its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolution 69/1, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council.

A conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, of resolution 69/1, entitled "A conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific", by which the Commission decided to revise its conference structure, as set out in annexes I, II and III to the present resolution,

Endorses the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as set out in annexes I, II and III to the present resolution.

Annex I
Conference structure of the Commission

I. Commission

1. The Commission shall meet annually under an overarching theme selected by member States, with each session comprising a senior officials segment of three days followed by a ministerial segment of two days, for a total of five working days, to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, review and endorse the proposed strategic framework and programme of work and take any other decisions required in conformity with its terms of reference.

2. The sessions of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be held jointly for a maximum of one day during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the committees of the whole; a one-day preparatory meeting of the Special Body will be held immediately before the beginning of the Commission session.

3. The Commission session may include a distinguished person's lecture; high-level representatives of United Nations agencies may be invited to participate

in panel discussions held during the Commission session, and corporate leaders and civil society organizations may be invited to participate in the session as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

4. The Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which convenes prior to the Commission session, shall be reconstituted as the Working Group on Draft Resolutions during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the committees of the whole.

5. The number of simultaneous meetings of the committees of the whole, including their commensurate bodies, held during the senior officials segment of the annual session of the Commission shall not exceed two.

6. Draft resolutions shall reflect the substantive deliberations of member States; furthermore, without prejudice to rule 31 of its rules of procedure, members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission, and the Commission shall not consider draft resolutions submitted within one week of the first day of the Commission session.

7. The report of the Commission will be composed of the decisions and resolutions of the Commission. The draft record of proceedings of the Commission, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comment within 15 days of the conclusion of the session. Members and associate members will be requested to provide comments within 15 days of receiving the draft record of proceedings. The secretariat's final record of proceedings of the Commission session will be issued within two months of the conclusion of the session, taking into account the relevant comments of members and associate members.

II. Subsidiary structure

8. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following eight committees:

(a) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development;

(b) Committee on Trade and Investment;

(c) Committee on Transport;

(d) Committee on Environment and Development;

(e) Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

(f) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

(g) Committee on Social Development;

(h) Committee on Statistics.

9. The eight committees shall meet biennially, with four committees meeting each year, for a maximum duration of five days for each session.

10. Within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall:

(a) Review and analyse regional trends;

(b) Identify, in consultation with member States, their priorities and emerging issues and consult on regional approaches, taking into consideration subregional aspects;

(c) Promote regional dialogue, including its subregional synergies, and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes;

(d) Consider common regional positions as inputs to global processes and promote regional follow-up to their outcomes;

(e) Propose issues for consideration by the Commission as the basis for possible resolutions;

(f) Monitor the implementation of Commission resolutions;

(g) Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region, where appropriate, between Governments and civil society, the private sector and United Nations and other international institutions at the regional and subregional levels.

11. Furthermore, within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall provide the secretariat, including its regional institutions, with guidance in reviewing the proposed strategic framework and programme of work.

12. The following areas shall be mainstreamed into the work of all committees:

(a) Implementation of the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Poverty reduction and balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development;

(c) Gender equality;

(d) Priority needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

13. Representatives of civil society and the private sector may, upon consultation with member States, be invited to join the committee sessions as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

14. The specific issues to be addressed by each of the eight committees in carrying out the functions outlined above are listed in annex II.

III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings

15. Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings may be organized on specific and cross-sectoral issues.

16. No more than six such ministerial conferences or other intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days shall not exceed 20.

17. In those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee, the corresponding committee need not be convened.

IV. Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

18. The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III.

19. The Advisory Committee may, if necessary, establish its own working groups to consider specific issues.

20. The Advisory Committee shall meet with sufficient frequency, in both formal and informal meetings on topical subjects, especially prior to the Commission session. The number of formal meetings of the Advisory Committee per calendar year shall not be less than 6 or more than 12. Any additional meetings, formal or informal, will be held in consultation with the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary and may not require documentation by the secretariat, unless otherwise requested by the Advisory Committee.

21. Should the need arise to seek the views of United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations on subjects of interest to the Advisory Committee, members of the Advisory Committee can, if consensus has been reached, request the secretariat to invite representatives of particular United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations to attend a subsequent session of the Advisory Committee.

22. The Advisory Committee shall periodically review the work of subregional offices and regional institutions and actively follow up and report on the implementation of resolutions by member States. The secretariat shall facilitate the reporting on resolutions by preparing the requisite guidelines and templates.

V. Existing regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission

23. The following institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(b) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;

(c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(e) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.

VI. General provisions

A. Rules of procedure

24. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the committees.

B. Informal session

25. An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least 30 days before the opening of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided.

Annex II
Issues to be addressed by the committees subsidiary to the Commission

The issues listed below are the primary issues to be addressed by each committee. The Commission may adjust the list of issues for any committee at any time, as appropriate; the committees shall likewise retain the flexibility to address new or emerging issues brought to their attention by the secretariat upon consultation with member States.

1. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development:

(a) Experiences and practices in formulating and implementing macroeconomic policies to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable and inclusive development;

(b) Regional economic development policies and options, including in the area of financing for development;

(c) Strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on poverty reduction;

(d) Pro-poor economic growth for increasing the income and employment of the poor;

(e) Policy options and programmes for reducing rural poverty, including those with a gender dimension, through the sustainable development of secondary crops.

2. Committee on Trade and Investment:

(a) Regional cooperative mechanisms and agreements in trade, investment and finance, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement;

(b) Policy options on trade and investment, enterprise development and finance;

(c) Policy options and strategies for sustainable economic growth and rural poverty reduction through agro-technology transfer and agro-based enterprise development;

(d) Technology transfer to address regional development challenges.

3. Committee on Transport:

(a) Transport policy options and programmes, including those targeting the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) The Asian Highway Network, the trans-Asian railway network and other initiatives promoted by the Commission for planning international intermodal transport linkages;

(c) Measures to improve road safety and the efficiency of transport operations and logistics;

(d) Support for accession to and the implementation of international transport agreements.

4. Committee on Environment and Development:

(a) Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy;

(b) Policies and strategies for the use of sustainable planning and the use of water resources;

(c) Regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy resources;

(d) Policies and strategies for promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development.

5. Committee on Information and Communications Technology:

(a) Integration of information and communications technology-related issues into development policies, plans and programmes;

(b) Transfer and application of information and communications technology at the regional and subregional levels;

(c) Development of human and institutional capacity in the use of information and communications technology;

(d) Information and communications technology applications for disaster risk reduction.

6. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction:

(a) Policy options and strategies on multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation;

(b) Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk management, including space and other technical support systems;

(c) Multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks.

7. Committee on Social Development:

(a) Implementation of internationally agreed commitments, including those agreed at the United Nations on social development, population, ageing, disability, youth and disadvantaged groups, gender equality and health;

(b) Policy options, strategies and good practices in social policy and protection;

(c) Social policies and financing aimed at building inclusive societies.

8. Committee on Statistics:

(a) Ensure that by 2020 all countries in the region have the capability to provide a basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics;

(b) Create a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.

Annex III

Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

(a) To strengthen close cooperation and consultation between the member States and the secretariat, including by providing advice and guidance to be taken into account by the Executive Secretary while undertaking the respective activities;

(b) To serve as a deliberative forum for substantive exchange of views and provide guidance on the formulation of the agenda of the Commission and in connection with economic and social developments that have an impact on the Asia-Pacific region;

(c) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework, programme of work and theme topics for sessions of the Commission consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission;

(d) To receive, on a regular basis, information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission;

(e) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Commission's programme of work and resource allocation;

(f) To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;

(g) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, consistent with the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the developmental priorities of member States, as defined by them, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

(h) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas and on the formulation of the annotated provisional agendas for Commission sessions;

(i) To be informed of collaboration and related arrangements between the secretariat and other international and regional organizations, in particular on long-term cooperation programmes and joint initiatives, including those to be proposed by the Executive Secretary and conducted under the auspices of the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

(j) To carry out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission.

Draft resolution II

3. At its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolution 69/5, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, of resolution 69/5, entitled "Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization", by which the Commission adopted the revised statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, as set out in the Annex to the present resolution,

Endorses the revised statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, as set out in the Annex to the present resolution.

Annex
Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

Establishment

1. The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (hereinafter "the Centre") was established as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery on 22 May 2002 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of the same date, and subsequently superseded by the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery through Commission resolution 61/3 of 18 May 2005.

2. The membership of the Centre shall be identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter "the Commission").

3. The Centre shall have the status of a subsidiary body of the Commission.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Centre are to enhance technical cooperation among the members and associate members of the Commission as well as other interested States Members of the United Nations, through extensive exchange of information and sharing of knowledge and promotion of research and development and agro-enterprise development in the areas of sustainable agricultural mechanization and technology for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the region.

Functions

5. The Centre will achieve the objectives set out above through the undertaking of such functions as:

(a) Assistance in the improvement of agricultural engineering and sustainable agricultural mechanization;

(b) Enhancement of farm mechanization technologies in addressing issues related to subsistence farming for increased food security and poverty reduction and in promoting agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise development and commercial farming, to seize opportunities for increased market access and agro-food trade;

(c) A focus on an agro-based enterprise cluster concept and enterprise development activities to enhance the capabilities of members in identifying potential agricultural commodities in their respective countries on a clustering basis;

(d) Regional cooperation in green agro-technology transfer, including through networking of focal point national institutes in countries members of the Centre and other relevant institutions;

(e) The setting-up of an interactive Internet website to allow members full access to information and technology databases, including the sharing of expert systems and decision support systems in the financial management of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Promotion of the process of technology transfer from research and development institutes to the agricultural and farm machinery extension systems in member countries for poverty reduction;

(g) Assistance in the dissemination and exchange of sustainable and commercially successful machinery and related drawings of appropriate tools, machines and equipment;

(h) Technical assistance projects, capacity-building programmes, training workshops and seminars and advisory services on sustainable agricultural mechanization and related food safety standards;

(i) Tapping the resources of developed countries in building the capacity of member countries.

Status and organization

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter "the Council"), a Director, other staff and a Technical Committee.

7. The Centre is located in Beijing.

8. The Centre's activities shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Centre shall have a Governing Council, consisting of a representative designated by the Government of China and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of the Commission elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission

shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary or his or her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council; (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies; and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his or her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, where that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairperson, shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which she or he has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have a Director, and staff, who shall be Commission staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of the Commission as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members and associate members of the

Commission will be invited to propose candidates for the Technical Committee. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary. The Director may also invite governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions to propose experts who would best contribute to Technical Committee discussions on a specific topic.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, with the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of the Commission should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

4. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (forty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Africa), held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, approved a ministerial statement and six resolutions, which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Summary of the ministerial statement

5. The African ministers of finance, planning and economic development deliberated on the theme "Industrialization for an emerging Africa". The ministers noted that the average growth rate of African countries had rebounded to 5 per cent in 2012 after a slowdown in 2011, but that this growth had not created many jobs, in part because African economies continued to rely heavily on primary commodity production and exports.

6. The ministers underlined that Africa must actively pursue a strategy of commodity-based industrialization by adding value to its natural resources, thereby creating employment for its young and urbanizing population. They acknowledged the need for dynamic and visionary leadership and coordinated actions to adopt and implement a coherent industrial policy.

7. The ministers welcomed the progress made by African countries towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals. However, cognizant of the enduring spatial, gender-based, income-based and demographic inequalities in access to social services, the ministers committed to investing in improving the availability and quality of social services.

8. The ministers commended the African Union Commission (AUC), ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) for conducting regional consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and requested them to ensure that African priorities were effectively reflected in the agenda.

9. The ministers noted the new strategic orientation of ECA and the refocusing of its programme priorities to better serve the African transformation agenda in a changing world. They further noted the call by African leaders to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide required support to ECA to enhance its work in accordance with Africa's priorities.

Industrialization for an emerging Africa (resolution 907 (XLVI))

10. The Conference of Ministers, inter alia, called on African governments to adopt and implement coherent industrial policies in order to increase value addition in local production and deepen linkages between the commodity sector and other economic sectors. They urged African Governments to create institutional industrial policy mechanisms to develop country-specific, industrial policy road maps for value addition in close collaboration with all stakeholders.

11. The ministers requested AUC and ECA to recommend appropriate strategies and mechanisms to support home-grown technologies, indigenous knowledge and knowledge-based innovation, including through the establishment of regional technology centres in each regional economic community. They further called on ECA and AUC to develop a coherent approach that would assist African countries in pursuing industrialization based on their comparative advantages; and requested ECA to assist the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in developing industrial policies as a basis for resource-based industrialization and economic diversification.

Realizing and harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa (resolution 909 (XLVI))

12. In order to realize gains from Africa's demographic dividend, the Conference of Ministers, inter alia, committed to ensuring effective integration of job creating, social, demographic and health factors into broader development strategies and policies. The ministers requested ECA and AUC to develop a continental demographic dividend initiative that would allow the continent to accelerate economic development and contribute to the African renaissance. They invited multilateral agencies, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations, inter alia, to work with AUC, ECA and AfDB to provide technical assistance, expertise and financial resources to enable member States to act to capture the benefits of their demographic dividends.

African common position on the post-2015 development agenda (resolution 910 (XLVI))

13. The Conference of Ministers, inter alia, took note of the draft 2013 report on the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and recommended its adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in May 2013. The ministers took note of the draft African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda and called upon AUC, ECA, AfDB and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish an African technical working group to translate Africa's priorities into concrete goals and targets and to feed them into the sustainable development goals process and the post-2015 global agenda.

Statistics and statistical development (resolution 911 (XLVI))

14. The Conference of Ministers, inter alia, requested AUC, AfDB, ECA and UNDP to create a working group to develop indicators for the post-2015 development agenda based on African priorities and to draw up a draft list of indicators by the end of 2013. They called upon AUC, ECA and AfDB to devote the next meeting of Directors General of African National Statistical Offices to the promotion of the production and use of economic statistics, including natural capital accounts, with a view to adequately supporting the transformation of African economies. The ministers urged ECA, AUC and AfDB to prepare a five-year strategic plan for the Pan African Statistical Training Centre, to be submitted to the meeting of Directors General of African National Statistical Offices by November 2013; requested the AUC, AfDB, ECA and the regional economic communities to prepare a strategic plan for the operationalization of the African Union Institute for Statistics and to organize an expert group meeting with a view to defining ways and means for its implementation. They urged UNDP, AfDB, ECA and the African

Governance Institute to continue to support the efforts of AUC to implement the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

15. At its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted a number of resolutions, which are hereinunder brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region (resolution 69/2)

16. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assist Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in forwarding the Vientiane Consensus as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the final global review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014 and to assist them in implementing the recommendations of the Consensus and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that mitigate the impact of economic crisis, restore growth, achieve the Millennium Development Goals and address the emerging development challenges to shape the development agenda beyond 2015.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States on the development agenda beyond 2015 (resolution 69/3)

17. The Commission welcomed the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on 24 April 2013 at the meeting on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 for Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It requested the Executive Secretary to continue to assist those countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Asia-Pacific ministerial dialogue: from the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (resolution 69/4)

18. The Commission welcomed the proposal of the Government of Thailand to hold the Asia-Pacific ministerial dialogue on the theme "From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015", in Bangkok from 26 to 28 August 2013. The Commission decided to identify and explore the challenges in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication in the region that should be addressed in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

Implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development (resolution 69/6)

19. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other

organizations, to continue to support the promotion of public-private partnerships for sustainable infrastructure development in the region.

Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports (resolution 69/7)

20. The Commission adopted the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports and requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the development of dry ports of international importance; collaborate with international and regional financing institutions, donors and international organizations for the development and operation of dry ports of international importance; and continue working towards the development of an intermodal transport and logistics system for the region, including through the development of the Asian Highway Network, the trans-Asian railway network and dry ports of international importance.

Enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/8)

21. The Commission noted the outcome document of the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit, the Message from Beppu, and invited members and associate members to work towards integrating water resource management into national development plans and to strengthen integrated water resources with a view to ensuring sustainable development. It requested the Executive Secretary to coordinate with other United Nations agencies to make effective use of technology and innovation in water management and to facilitate the sharing of experiences, and best practices in this field.

Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (resolution 69/9)

22. The Commission welcomed the convening by the Government of Kazakhstan of the meeting of stakeholders in the Green Bridge Partnership Programme in Astana in September 2013 to consider the establishment of the bodies responsible for the governance, implementation and coordination of and a financing facility for the Green Bridge Partnership Programme. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to support the elaboration of the institutional framework and programmatic activities of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme.

Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/10)

23. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, inter alia, to promote an exchange of best practices and experiences on the development of information and communications technology infrastructure and to assist member States in their efforts to integrate information and communications technology into national development processes. The Commission further requested the Executive Secretary to pursue the facilitation and coordination of the regional review of progress in implementation of the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society and to continue to strengthen the programmes of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, as well as to work towards a regional framework for action.

Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017 (resolution 69/11)

24. Recognizing that applications of space technology and geographical information systems have contributed significantly to addressing disaster risk reduction and management in the region, the Commission endorsed the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, and requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of the Plan.

Enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/12)

25. The Commission welcomed the convening of the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Thailand in 2014 and the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015, the latter to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Members and associate members were invited, inter alia, to address building resilience to natural hazards and disasters by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into long-term development strategies. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with other actors, to encourage appropriate consideration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in discussions of the post-2015 agenda and in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/13)

26. Recalling its resolution 68/7 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Decade and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real", to prepare a road map for their implementation and to submit the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, to be convened on 23 September 2013 in New York.

Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (resolution 69/14)

27. Recalling its resolution 67/5 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, the Commission endorsed the adoption of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation on the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing and requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of the recommendations contained in it.

Implementing the outcome of the high-level meeting on the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/15)

28. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 2014 an intergovernmental regional meeting of ministers of health, ministers responsible for civil registration, heads of national statistical organizations and other relevant government stakeholders to endorse the regional strategic plan for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific. It also requested the full development of and assistance in funding regional support activities for the regional strategic plan and the establishment of a regional steering group on civil registration and vital statistics.

A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/16)

29. The Commission, recognizing the increasing policy interest in population subgroups and economic and social inequalities, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics that the core set of population and social statistics be used as a regional guideline for national capacity development to focus national efforts, coordinate regional cooperation and mobilize support by all relevant partners. It recommended that members and associate members use the core set of population and social statistics as a framework in the development of their national statistical systems.

Sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States (resolution 69/17)

30. The Commission invited States parties to fully implement their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It requested the Executive Secretary, inter alia, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies, international financial institutions and bilateral donors, to support capacity development in Asia-Pacific small island developing States for the sustainable management of oceans and seas as part of their efforts to eradicate poverty and ensure food security. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to develop the evidence base for determining how the sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources could contribute to poverty eradication and sustained economic growth in Asia-Pacific small island developing States.